

DOUGLASS CROCKWELL ILLUSTRATION COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library.
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Douglass Crockwell
- Title:** Douglass Crockwell Illustration Collection
- Dates:** c. 1938-1947
- Abstract:** This collection consists of 17 illustrations by artist Douglass Crockwell (1904-1968). Crockwell was a long-time resident and community leader of Glens Falls, NY. His illustrations appeared in many ads and magazines, including The Saturday Evening Post. His work represents post-World War II American values and has been compared to Norman Rockwell. Crockwell was a very successful commercial artist.
- Quantity:** 1 box (17 illustrations)
- Identification Number:** Art and Folk Art

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Douglass Crockwell was born Spencer Douglass Crockwell on April 29, 1904 in Columbus, Ohio. His parents were Charles Roland Crockwell and Cora (Smith) Crockwell. The family lived in St. Louis from 1907-1932. Crockwell attended Washington University, where he studied a wide range of subjects, from engineering to art. He studied art in Paris in 1929-30. He moved to Glens Falls, NY in 1932 and married his wife, Margaret J. (Braman) Crockwell in 1933, who was also an artist. They had three children: Spencer Douglass Crockwell, Jr., Margaret Getty Crockwell, and Johanna C. (Crockwell) Tierney. The family lived on Sanford St., in a home adjacent to Crockwell's art studio. Crockwell became a community leader in Glens Falls. He was the chairman of the Glens Falls Planning Board, a member of the Urban Renewal Agency, and a member of the school board. His efforts helped to restore downtown Glens Falls. He was also a close friend of Mr. and Mrs. Hyde of the Hyde Collection and served as the Director of the museum for a time.

Crockwell's interests were diverse and included photography, movie-making, science, and painting. He invented the Pan-Stereo camera in 1957 and brought back the mutoscope camera from obscurity. He produced commercial illustrations to support his family. The Saturday Evening Post accepted his first commercial illustration in 1933. His paintings reflected the values of post-World War II America. His artistic style is similar to Norman Rockwell's. He often used local residents as models for his paintings. His work was also used in advertisements for such companies as General Electric, Welch, General Motors, and Wyeth pharmaceuticals. About 450 of his oil paintings were turned into full-page, full-color illustrations. These images have been reproduced over 3 billion times. After a very successful art career, Crockwell died on November 30, 1968.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

This collection includes 17 illustrations by Douglass Crockwell. All but one are color illustrations. The dates run from 1938-1947. Most of the illustrations were printed in the Saturday Evening Post, which became a very successful avenue for Crockwell in his career. Several full issues of the magazine are included in the collection, with Crockwell's illustrations on the front covers. Others are only one-page. The illustrations depict various themes, including American youth, small-town life, and the prosperity of post-war America.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Post-World War II America
The Saturday Evening Post

Places: Glens Falls, NY

Important People: Crockwell, Douglass

Form/Genre: Magazine / Illustration

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Douglass Crockwell Illustration Collection
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Accession number:

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Caitlin Johnson, February 2009.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Series 1

Box 1:

The Saturday Evening Post (front cover). August 16, 1941. vol 214, no 7. [young girl and boy, seen through bicycle wheel] color

The Saturday Evening Post (front cover). April 4, 1942. vol 214, no 40. [young girl and boy at cinema, eating snacks] color

Country Gentlewoman (front cover). April 1945. [little girl in red coat and hat, walking up porch steps] color

The Saturday Evening Post (inside page). [n.d.] [two men in hats, at a restaurant counter] color

The Saturday Evening Post (inside page). [n.d.] [old man, sitting and fishing] color

The Saturday Evening Post (inside page). March 22, 1947. [Page 165?] [Welch's ad, with family at dining table] color

The Saturday Evening Post (inside page). Page 37 [n.d.] [soldier looking out train window] black and white

The Saturday Evening Post (inside page). [n.d.] [mother and two children in church pew] color

The Saturday Evening Post (2 inside facing pages). November 8, 1947.

1. "Painted from life by Douglass Crockwell, number 15 of a series." [Avondale Mills ad, factory workers] color
2. "Avondale School Children, painted from life by Douglass Crockwell, number 8 of a series." [Avondale Mills ad, choir of children singing] color

The Saturday Evening Post (front cover). August 13, 1938. vol 211, no 7. [two young boys camping by a lake] color

The Saturday Evening Post (front cover). August 21, 1943. [little girl with pink bonnet, in field of daisies] color

National 4-H Club Calendar. [n.d.] [young boy and girl, eating cookies, looking at cow] color

The Saturday Evening Post (front cover). January 11, 1941. vol 213, no 28. [woman in store, surrounded by merchandise, "exchange dept."] color

The Saturday Evening Post (front cover). July 6, 1940. vol 213, no 1. [three young girls waiting by mailbox at "Camp Wip-Pur-Wil"] color

The National Geographic Magazine (back cover). June 1944. vol LXXXV, no 6. [Coca-Cola ad, soldier and kids at soda fountain counter] color

[unknown publication] (inside page) [n.d.] [Morton salt ad, young people at party, with popcorn and apples] color

4/2010